

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW WITH EUROPA
MAGAZINE - ZAIRE

1. FOLLOWING IS QUESTION ON ZAIRE WHICH AROSE DURING
PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTERVIEW WITH EUROPA MAGAZINE
CONDUCTED BY CORRESPONDENTS FROM THE LONDON TIMES, LE
MONDE, LA STAMPA, AND DIE WELT. INTERVIEW PUBLISHED
MAY 3 IN LONDON TIMES.

2. QUESTION: WE ARE STRUCK BY THE FACT THAT YOU ARE
WILLING TO COORDINATE YOUR POLICIES WITH BRITAIN IN
SEEKING TO AVERT A RACE WAR I4 SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND YET
IN THE CASE WHERE THERE HAS BEEN AN INVASION APPARENTLY
ACROSS THE FRONTIER INTO ZAIRE FROM NEIGHBORING ANGOLA
YOU WISH TO STAY OUT OF ANY INVOLVEMENT AND - HOW SHALL
I SAY IT - LEAVE IT TO THE FRENCH? IS THAT A FAIR
CHARACTERIZATION, AND CAN YOU TELL US WHAT YOUR POLICY IS?
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PRESIDENT CARTER:
WE HAVE AN AVERSION TO MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN
COUNTRIES. WE ARE SUFFERING OR BENEFITTING FROM THE

EXPERIENCE THAT WE HAD IN VIETNAM. IT WOULD NOT BE
POSSIBLE FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO SUPPORT AN

INVASION FORCE WITH THE UNITED STATES INTO THE SHABA
REGION OF ZAIRE.

WE HAVE CONTINUED TO SEND ZAIRE AID AND SUPPLIES,
C-130S, AMMUNITION, FUEL, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, PARACHUTES
AND SO FORTH.

WE OBVIOUSLY DID NOT INTERFERE IN THE DECISIONS MADE
BY THE EGYPTIANS, MOROCCANS, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO
GIVE ZAIRE MORE DIRECT AID. WE CERTAINLY DO NOT
DISAPPROVE IT.

I THINK WHEN THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES OR THE AFRICAN
NATIONS BECAUSE OF CLOSE POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL
TIES WITH MOBUTU AND HIS GOVERNMENT ARE INCLINED TO BE
MORE ACTIVE IN THEIR HELP FOR HIM WE, YOU KNOW, WOULD
CERTAINLY APPROVE OF THAT, OF THEIR PREROGATIVE.

SO WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AFRICAN
NATIONS HONoured. WE ARE FRIENDLY WITH MOBUTU AND THE
GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE. WE DO NOT INTEND TO GET MILITARILY
INVOLVED, UNLESS OUR OWN SECURITY IS DIRECTLY
THREATENED, IN THE AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. WE
HONOUR AND RESPECT AND APPRECIATE THE ACTION THAT
THE FRENCH AND THE MOROCCAN AND EGYPTIAN NATIONS
HAVE TAKEN.

3. FOLLOWING IS WHITE HOUSE CLARIFICATION:

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THE PRESIDENT WAS REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT PREVIOUS
ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE SUPPLIED AMMUNITION TO ZAIRE. THIS
ADMINISTRATION HAS NOT SENT ANY AMMUNITION TO ZAIRE AND
IS NOT SENDING ANY DURING THE PRESENT CRISIS.

BACKGROUND:

IF ASKED, REFERRING TO C-130S.

ZAIRE HAS FIVE C-130S PROVIDED BY PREVIOUS ADMINISTRA-
TIONS AND ONE ADDITIONAL C-130 WILL BE DELIVERED SHORTLY.
CHRISTOPHER

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